

This brochure has been developed to heighten resident awareness of Hartford's urban forest assets and to provide useful information concerning our tree population. Streets throughout the city are lined with approximately 25,000 street trees. This number does not include trees growing in city parks. Although the city hosts myriad species, Norway Red and Sugar Maples are the most common indigenous trees.

Common Tree Diseases and Infestations

The most fatal tree fungal affliction in the New England area is Dutch Elm disease. At one time, the American Elm was the most common street tree in Hartford. At present, only about 100 remain throughout the city as a result of this fatal tree disease. Leaf spots and anthracnose are also common non-fatal fungal afflictions of trees causing defoliation.

Insects also vigorously attack tree foliage but rarely result in the tree's death. Common infestations include Japanese beetles, aphids, leaf beetles, gypsy moths, tent caterpillars, fall webworms, woolly adelgids and carpenter ants.

City Tree Services

The Public Works Forestry Unit maintains the city's public tree population, both on city streets and in city parks. Generally, trees between the sidewalk and the curb are considered public ("city") trees; those to the property side of the sidewalk are privately owned and the responsibility of the property owner.



Optimally, city trees are trimmed on a five year cycle or "as needed" basis. Trees creating or contributing to hazardous conditions such as branches causing low clearance over roads, obscuring traffic signs or street lights, etc., are given priority.

The Forestry Unit also removes dead or hazardous street trees. If a tree is dead, it is removed without public notification. However, if the tree is alive and must be removed to correct a hazardous condition, it must be posted for removal with a notice to the public for ten days to allow for a protest period. If a protest is received, the City Forester (tree warden) holds a hearing with all concerned parties to determine a course of action. The city does not generally remove healthy trees.

Hartford parks are rich with varied species of trees. Bushnell Park in the city's center is well known for its diverse species population. Keney, Colt, Elizabeth, and Goodwin Parks, as well as City Hall on Main Street, all boost varied tree species populations. Group tours can be arranged to view the city's local tree collections by contacting Parks Maintenance at 5438767.

Green Waste Disposal

The city provides a green waste disposal site for resident use on Tower Avenue across from Waverly Street. The site accepts tree branches and brush. Call Public Works dispatcher at 543-8765 for exact operating hours.

Frequently Asked Questions

The city tree in front of my property has branches too close to electrical wires and might break them in a storm or on a windy day. Who do I call to request they be trimmed?

Connecticut Light & Power Company trims branches that interfere with their power lines and should be notified. The city will clear any city tree branches that are interfering with the service line running between the utility pole and the property.

I'm having a problem with a neighbor's tree overhanging my property and/or creating a hazardous situation. How does the city get involved in this?

This is a private property issue between two property owners and

the city has no direct jurisdiction in resolving it. Generally, if a branch is overhanging adjacent property, the adjacent property owner has the right to cut the branch. A "good neighbor" policy and a reasonable accommodation between the two property owners can generally solve these types of problems. The City Forester will, however, offer guidance to property owners on resolving problems of this nature. The city does get involved if the tree (or branch) presents a hazard to the public right of way.

A city tree's roots have damaged my sidewalk. Who do I notify and who is liable for repair?

Report the situation to the City Forester who will investigate it and determine if the tree is the problem. If the tree roots are found to be at fault, the property owner is not liable for the repair. Public Works sidewalk division will be notified to schedule the repair.

Useful Telephone Numbers

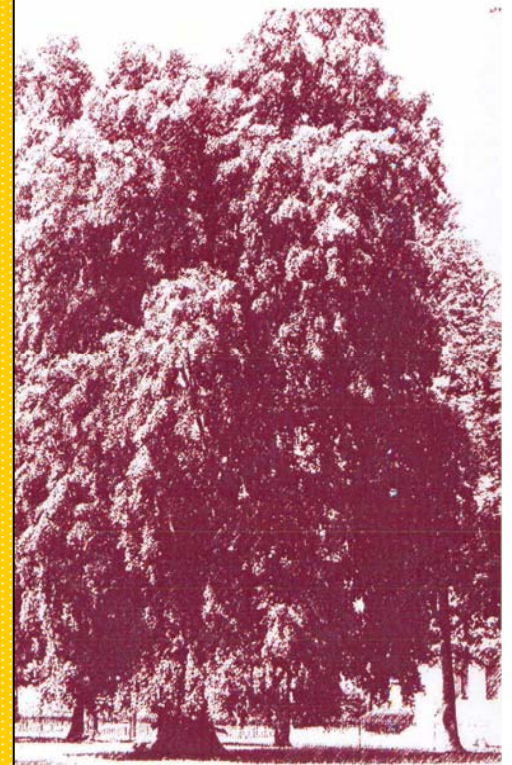
Forestry Unit: 543-8765

Parks Maintenance: 543-8767

Tree emergencies (during normal working hours):
DPW dispatcher – 543-8765

After hours emergency: Hartford Police
Department: 527-7300

City Trees



CITY OF HARTFORD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
525 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103